

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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DEPT ALSO PASS TO AID/LA/MRSD FOR GEORGE PHILLIPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB PINT ES
SUBJ: UNION COMUNAL SALVADORENA (UCS): EMBOFFS MEET WITH MINISTER
OF LABOR

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0182

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH MINLABOR ON JANUARY 25, EMBOFFS
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GOES WOULD HELP TO RESOLVE AS QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE THE INTERNAL POLITICAL DISPUTE WITHIN THE UCS. THEY
ALSO CONVEYED THE DESIRE OF AFL-CIO AND AIFLD OFFICIALS
TO MEET WITH GOES OFFICIALS IN NEAR FUTURE. MINLABOR SAID HE

WAS HOPEFUL INTERNAL UCS DISPUTE WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON, AND
THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO MEET WITH AIFLD OFFICIALS AFTER THERE
HAD BEEN A FINAL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

1. DCM, POLITICAL OFFICER, PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR, AND LABOR
OFFICER MET ON JANUARY 25 WITH MINISTER OF LABOR COLONEL
ROBERTO ESCOBAR GARCIA. AMONG TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE INTERNAL
DISPUTE WITHIN THE UCS AND THE CONTINUING INTEREST OF
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AFL-CIO AND AIFLD IN UCS MATTERS.

2. DCM TOLD MINLABOR THAT THE EMBASSY WAS HOPEFUL
THAT THE GOES COULD HELP TO RESOLVE AS QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE THE CONTINUING DISPUTE OVER THE DECEMBER 18
ELECTIONS, IN ORDER THAT THE EMBASSY AND OTHERS COULD
BEGIN THE TASK OF CONSIDERING FUTURE PROGRAMS FOR HELPING THE UCS

TO OVERCOME ITS ACCOUNTING AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT ELECTION DISPUTE WOULD BE RESOLVED IN A WAY WHICH PRESERVED THE "INDEPENDENCE" OF THE UCS. DCM REFERRED TO JANUARY 20 VISIT TO EL SALVADOR OF MICHAEL BOGGS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE AFL-CIO'S DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND PAUL SOMOGYI, DIRECTOR OF AIFLD/GUATEMALA. DCM STATED THAT IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS, BOGGS WANTED EMBASSY TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO GOES OFFICIALS THAT AIFLD WAS IN THE PROCESS OF REVAMPING ITS PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO AGRARIAN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UCS AND THAT IT CONSIDERED THE FORMS OF FUTURE ASSISTANCE TO THE UCS, THE PERSONNEL TO BE INVOLVED, AND OTHER MATTERS TO BE "COMPLETELY NEGOTIABLE". HE SAID THAT THE AFL-CIO AND AIFLD WANTED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH APPROPRIATE GOES OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINLABOR.

3. MINLABOR REPLIED THAT THE GOES WANTED TO "HELP AND PROTECT" THE UCS AND WAS CONCERNED TO PREVENT PRESENT DISPUTE FROM DESTROYING THE UCS, WHICH IT HOPES WILL MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S AGRARIAN PROGRAM. HE ADDED THAT THE GOES SUBCOMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE DECEMBER 18 ELECTIONS HAD DRAWN UP A PRE-LIMINARY REPORT BUT THAT IT HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE FULL COMMISSION. HOWEVER, HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT A FINAL DECISION COULD BE REACHED "SOON". MINLABOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMENTED THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS THAT HE AND OTHER GOES OFFICIALS MIGHT HAVE WITH AIFLD OFFICIALS IN EL SALVADOR SHOULD AWAIT A FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE ELECTIONS QUESTION. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED HIS SCHEDULE PERMITTING, HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH MR BOGGS AND OTHERS ON THE TRIP TO THE U.S. THAT HE PLANS TO MAKE THE WEEK OF JANUARY 29. (HE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR "PRAYER MEETING" ON FEB 2 WITH MINISTERS PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMY.) L4. NOTE: IN A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON JANUARY 26, SOMOGYI SAID THAT THE EL SALVADORAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY AFL-CIO AND THAT AN APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN SET UP FOR MINLABOR TO MEET WITH BOGGS AND POSSIBLY OTHER OFFICIALS. MEMCONS ON THE CONVERSATIONS BY EMBOFFS WITH BOGGS AND MINLABOR WILL BE POUCHED. DEVINE

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